

with D. J. Wembelton
Comptroller
2

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


TO THE

Buckingham Town Council

ACTING AS THE

Urban District Council.

1911.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Buckingham acting by the Town Council as the Urban District Council.

GRENVILLE HOUSE,

BUCKINGHAM,

January, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my First Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District after my appointment on May 15th, 1911.

Population.

I have estimated the population to the middle of 1911 to be 3285. The total population at the Census of 1911 (taken in March, 1911,) was 3282, compared with a total of 3151 at the previous Census in 1901, showing an increase of 131.

Births.

63 births were registered during 1911; of these 61 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate. They consisted of 28 boys and 35 girls.

Birth-rate.

The birth-rate is 19·1 per 1000. This is the lowest birth-rate, with the exception of 1908 (18·8 per 1000), since 1901.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the District during 1911 was 32.

Death-rate.

This gives a total death-rate of deaths occurring in the District of 9·7 per 1000, being very low, in fact the lowest since 1908 (7·2 per 1000). Of the above total of 32, however, 10 were non-residents who died in Public Institutions in the District, and these deducted from the total number gives a nett result of 22. To this has to be added the death of one resident belonging to the District reported as occurring in a Public Institution outside the District, bringing the total nett result of deaths among residents of the District up to 23. This gives a nett death-rate of 7·0 per 1000, again the lowest since 1908, and 2·4 lower than last year.

Causes of Death.

It is interesting to note that of the above number of 23 deaths among residents in the District, 15 occurred at the age of 65 and upwards. Cancer and malignant diseases accounted for 2 deaths, bronchitis for 3, pneumonia for 3, other diseases of the respiratory organs for 1, and heart disease for 3.

Infantile Mortality.

There were only two deaths registered during 1911 of infants under one year of age, giving a rate of 31.7 per 1000 births registered. This is very satisfactory, being lower even than last year, which again was the lowest since 1901.

Infectious Diseases.

A total number of 55 cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1911. Of these, 13 were cases of chicken pox, which was made a notifiable disease for 12 months by a resolution of your Council early in the year, at the recommendation of your former Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Howard), my predecessor, owing to the occurrence of small-pox in the County. Of the remainder, one was a case of diphtheria, one of erysipelas, and 39 cases of scarlet fever. The cases of diphtheria and erysipelas were treated in their own homes, and of the scarlet fever cases, 21 were treated in the Isolation Hospital, and the remainder in their own homes. The cases of scarlet fever were, with one or two exceptions, mild in character, and I am glad to report no deaths from infectious diseases occurred during the year. It is these mild outbreaks of scarlet fever which are so difficult to control, for the early symptoms are so slight in character that they may attract no attention, and consequently no medical man is consulted. All cases of notifiable infectious disease are at once visited by me, unless I am assured by a competent person in charge of the case that isolation is sufficient. Where possible, the patients are treated in their own homes, but where this is unpracticable they are removed to the Isolation Hospital.

During 1911 a good deal of difficulty was met with on the question of the Isolation Hospital site, but it was overcome in the end by arrangements being made for it to remain in its old position, in the Brackley Road, on condition it was fenced round. Consequently your Council now rent half-an-acre of ground, surrounded by a galvanized iron sheeting fence, of the proper regulation height of 6ft. 6in. This is a great improvement, and renders isolation much more efficient. There is still, however, only accommodation for one kind of infectious disease at one time, and at the first opportunity an arrangement

must be made whereby two classes of infectious disease, other than small-pox, may be isolated at the same time. To meet this end, a joint scheme with the Rural District Council, as suggested by my predecessor in office in his report for last year, would be advantageous in many ways.

Small-pox.

No cases of small-pox have been notified during 1911.

During the year a scheme was started for several districts in the northern part of the county to join together in the use of a Small-pox Isolation Hospital, already situated within reasonable distance. A Conference was held at the hospital in question, and delegates from your Council attended. A report on the result of the Conference was drawn up, and this is now a subject of discussion by your Council. It is to be hoped that it may be found possible to adopt some such scheme, considering the very great importance of being prepared to deal with any cases at a moment's notice, and there being at present no provision for isolation of this disease in your District.

There were 30 Exemption Certificates obtained from vaccination during the year, being practically 50% of the births registered. In looking over past reports of your former Medical Officer of Health, I find this large proportion of unvaccinated children in your Borough constantly referred to; it is, without doubt, a serious matter, for one can never tell when a case of small-pox may be imported into the District, and an epidemic of this disease is a terrible thing, and also would entail a very great expense to the Borough.

Disinfection.

All houses where notifiable infectious diseases have been reported are immediately disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, either on the completion of the illness if treated at home, or after the removal of the case to the Isolation Hospital. Disinfectants for clothing, linen, etc., are also supplied by your Council to the infected houses.

Water Supply.

The supply from the Pumping Station, Maids Moreton, continues to be satisfactory and of good quality. 1911 was an exceptionally dry season, and the water level all over the country sank, but our supply never ran short in any way whatsoever, though in the neighbourhood round many districts were suffering from a great shortage. This is most satisfactory. At the time of writing, your Council have under consideration

the proposal for adding a second boiler in addition to the one already there. This will safeguard against a shortage in the supply to the town should the present boiler ever break down, and also allow for each boiler to be shut off at alternate intervals for purposes of cleaning and overhauling. The Gawcott water supply also continues satisfactory, and withstood the dry season.

*Milk
Supply.*

The milk produced in the District is of rich and good quality. The cowsheds are visited at intervals by me and your Surveyor, and I am glad to report that their cleanliness and drainage are satisfactory. During the year improvements were carried out in certain dairies under our instructions. All the milk-sellers are registered. No action had to be taken during the year as to tuberculous milk.

*Other
Foods.*

No carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned owing to tuberculosis or for other reasons. All bake-houses and slaughter-houses are visited by me and your Surveyor at certain intervals, and are all in a satisfactory condition.

*Drainage
and
Sewerage.*

The disposal of all sewerage for the town is very satisfactorily dealt with at the Sewerage Farm. All houses, with very few exceptions, are now connected with the public sewers, and have water closets. In the cases of 7 houses it is impossible to do this, as the level of the sewers is above that of the cottages. Where, however, there is no connection with the sewers, the sewerage can be and is satisfactorily dealt with by digging into the ground.

In Gawcott, Lenborough and Bourton pail closets and middens are used, and the contents are dug into the ground, with satisfactory results. No contents of privies, or pail, or earth closets are removed by the public scavenging cart except in Gawcott, where the contents of the pails are collected weekly and disposed of in a field some quarter-mile from the village.

*Disposal of
House
Refuse.*

This is removed by the public scavenging carts twice a-week in the town, carted to the Sewerage Farm and ploughed into the ground. In connection with this, I am glad to report that at the suggestion of myself and your Sanitary Inspector, a large number of covered-in sanitary ashbins are now in use in the town in place of the large ashbin, open box, or pail, which is so often used for the collection of animal and vegetable refuse, standing out in the open yard, often putrefying, and unhealthy

for the occupants of the house, and adding much to the difficulty of collection.

In Gawcott refuse is collected once a week and disposed of in the same field as the sewerage.

*Pollution of
Rivers and
Streams.*

There is no chance of pollution of the river Ouse in the Borough. The method of treating the sewage at the Sewerage Farm prevents this.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Public Elementary Schools is very satisfactory. The water supply is from the town mains. The inspection of the school children attending the schools in the Borough is now carried out by your local Medical Officer of Health, acting as Assistant School Medical Officer, under the County Medical Officer of Health, who is School Medical Officer. All cases of children absent from school owing to infectious disease are promptly notified to me by the teachers, and frequent visits are paid at such times, a strict list of all children absent being kept so that any suspicious case is not re-admitted without a proper certificate being signed by a duly qualified medical man. This certificate is supplied from the County Education Authority.

*Public
Health
Tuberculosis
Regulations.*

Only one case of tuberculosis was notified by a Poor Law Medical Officer.

Next year (1912) universal notification of tuberculosis comes into force, so that we shall then have statistics of the amount of tuberculosis in the District.

*Physical
Features.*

The town of Buckingham is situated in a valley, on the banks of the river Ouse. The other parts of the District are situated on the hills around.

*Occupation
of the
People.*

Mainly in agriculture. Other occupations are at Thew, Hooker & Gilbey's Milk Factory, and in the other ordinary occupations to be found in a country town of this kind.

*Sale of Food
and Drugs
Act.*

The local Superintendent of the Police is appointed Inspector under this Act. Samples of all kinds of food and drugs are obtained each quarter, and everything has been found satisfactory, no action having to be taken.

Housing.

The work of inspections has been carried on with regularity during the year 1911 under the Housing and Town Planning Act by myself and your Surveyor. A definite plan has been followed, certain streets being taken at a time, and a house-to-

Housing
(*contd.*)

house inspection made. Since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on May 15th, 1911, 114 inspections have been made by us in conjunction. The main defects found by us were defective roofs, whitewashing or distempering needed, defective floors and staircases, defective paving in yards, defective spouting, broken windows, cracked closet pans, unsuitable receptacles for collecting of home refuse (and in these cases sanitary ashbins have been and are being provided, *vide above*), and blocked drains. In all cases of houses where such defects were found, a report was made to your Council, and by their instructions an interview was had with, or a preliminary notice was first served on the owners, giving details of the defects needing remedy, and pointing out that unless steps were now taken to remedy the defects within a specified time, a Closing Order under the Act would have to be served on them.

Details set out in tabular form of number of defects found and remedied are given at the end of this Report.

Since my appointment in May, no Closing Orders under the Act have been served, for I am glad to report that in the case of all houses needing repair, the owners have, after receiving the above preliminary notice, and being interviewed, either repaired the defects, or they are in course of repair, or orders have been given for repairs to be carried out. This is very satisfactory.

Before my appointment, it was found necessary by my predecessor and the Sanitary Surveyor, after instructions from your Council to serve a Closing Order in respect of two houses, (*See details in table*). During this time the inspections under the Act were suspended for the time being, as two appeals to the Local Government Board were under discussion by owners in regard to Closing Orders served in 1910.

With regard to character of the houses, I find the structure, on the whole, good. Of course in this old town the large majority of houses are old-fashioned, but are sound. The defects found were mainly inside, as noticed above. On the whole the cleanliness is very satisfactory. As to supply and demand of cottages for working classes, there is a certain demand for houses about 5s. a week rental; also for houses to suit labouring classes with fairly large families.

*Factories
and
Workshops
Act.*

Details of inspections under this Act are appended. All such places are visited at intervals by your Inspector and myself. No lists of outworkers were received during the year.

In conclusion, I would like to tender my sincere thanks to Mr. James Smith, your Surveyor, who, during my first year of office, has given to me great assistance in the work, and a great deal of his valuable time. I am greatly indebted to him for all his kind help.

Your obedient Servant,

T. EBEN PEMBERTON.

(M.O.H., Borough of Buckingham.)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1911, for the Borough of Buckingham, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	All twice per year.	4	Nil.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...			
Total	92	4	

2.—Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.		
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>					
Want of Cleanliness	9	9			
Want of Ventilation					
Overcrowding					
Want of drainage of floors					
Other nuisances	1	1			
Sanitary accommodation {					insufficient
					unsuitable or defective ..
	not separate for sexes ...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>					
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s. 101) ...					
Breach of special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)					
Other offences (excluding offences relating to Outwork, which are included in Part 3 of this Report) ...					
Total	10	10			

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

Milk Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	10
Printers	...	...	..	...	...	2
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	4
Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dressmaking and millinery	...	..	...	...	...	8
Coachbuilding	...	...	..	...	...	2
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gas working	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electric lighting	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers, Painters and Tinsmiths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Laundries	...	...	..	...	...	4
Various	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of workshops on Register						46

5.—Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remedi- able under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Fac- tory and Workshop Acts (s. 5)	} Notified by H.M. Inspector } Reports (of action taken) } sent to H. M. Inspector					5 4
Other	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—						
Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	1

T. EBEN PEMBERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years
for the Borough of Buckingham District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-residents register'd in the District.	of Residents not register'd in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1906	3178	90	28.3	90	16.3	11	0	6	66.6	41	12.9	
1907	3172	72	22.7	72	17.02	7	0	6	83.3	47	14.8	
1908	3187	60	18.8	60	7.2	5	0	3	50.0	18	5.6	
1909	3170	82	25.8	82	23.3	15	0	10	121.9	59	18.6	
1910	3182	78	24.5	78	11.3	7	1	3	38.4	30	9.4	
1911	3285	63	19.1	63	9.7	10	1	2	31.7	23	7.0	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	4,773a.	1r. 9p.	Total population at all ages	...	3282	} At Census of 1911.
				Number of Inhabited Houses	...	792	
				Average number of persons per house	...	4.1	

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during year 1911 in the Buckingham Borough District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under I.	I to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		65 and upwards
Small-pox	Nil							
Cholera	"							
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup	I	I						
Erysipelas	I	...	...	..	I			
Scarlet Fever	39	4	32	...	3	...		21
Typhus Fever	Nil							
Enteric Fever	"							
Relapsing Fever	"							
Continued Fever	"							
Puerperal Fever	"							
Plague	"							
Phthisis { Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	I	...	...	...	...	I		
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	Nil							
Others	"							
Chicken Pox	13	2	4	7				
Totals	55	2	9	39		4	I	21

Isolation Hospital— { Buckingham Isolation Hospital,
Brackley Road.

Total available beds, 8.

Number of Diseases that
can be concurrently treated, 1.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the year 1911 in the Buckingham Borough District.

[illegible]

TABLE IV.

Infantile Mortality during 1911 in Buckingham Borough District.
Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes	{ Certified	...	1				1	1				2
	{ Uncertified	...										
{ Small-pox												
{ Chicken-pox												
{ Measles												
{ Scarlet Fever												
{ Diphtheria and Croup												
{ Whooping Cough												
{ Diarrhoea												
{ Enteritis												
{ Tuberculous Meningitis												
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis												
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases												
{ Congenital Malformations...												
{ Premature Birth												
{ Atrophy, Debility and												
{ Marasmus												
{ Atelectasis												
{ Injury at Birth			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Erysipelas												
{ Syphilis												
{ Rickets												
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)												
{ Convulsions			...	...	...	...		1	...	...	...	1
{ Gastritis												
{ Laryngitis												
{ Bronchitis												
{ Pneumonia (all forms)												
{ Suffocation, overlying												
{ Other cause												
			1					1				2

Births in the year { legitimate - 61
 { illegitimate - 2

Deaths in the year { legitimate infants - 2
 { illegitimate infants - 1

TABLE V.

Phthisis: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

Classes for which accommodation is provided.	By whom provided.	Where situated.	Total Number of Beds.	How are patients selected?	Are patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer?	What charge if any, is made for the use of Beds?	Do the Sanitary Authority use— (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis?	Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium?	Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air Shelters or Tents?
(a) Early Cases ...	Nil						No	No	No
(b) Intermediate Cases ...	Nil						No	No	No
(c) Advanced Cases	Nil						No	No	No

Have the Council or any Private Body provided a Dispensary? If so, give particulars.—No.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban
Sanitary District of Buckingham during the year ended
31st December, 1911.

I. NUISANCES.

1.	Complaints received—		
	For removal of ashes and refuse (removed same day by Borough cart)	...	16
	Smells from pigsties	.. .. .	2
	Foul Gulleys, etc.	... ..	6
		—	24
2.	Nuisances detected without complaint	...	4
3.	Nuisances abated	... ..	28
4.	Notices served—2 statutory, 3 informal	...	4
5.	Summonses taken out	.. .. .	0
6.	Convictions	... ..	0

No nuisances from structural defects in houses are included in the above, nor defects found in Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, Cowsheds, Workshops, Drains, etc. All these are set out under the special headings hereafter.

II. HOUSING.

7.	Houses inspected	... ..	114
8.	Other premises inspected (<i>see Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Factories, etc.</i>)		—
9.	Overcrowding abated	... ..	7
10.	Houses closed—3 after last year's Closing Order; 2 under this year's ditto	...	5
11.	Closing Orders becoming operative from last year	... ..	1
12.	Demolition Orders—2 houses have been closed as dwellings and converted into wash- houses, etc.; 1 house is held over for re- construction—in respect of	... ..	3 houses
13.	Houses placed in habitable repair	... }	34
14.	Defects remedied without Closing Orders	... }	
15.	Defects remedied after Closing Orders— 3 after last year's orders; 2 after this year's do. —in respect of	... ..	5 houses
16.	Dirty houses cleaned	... ..	36
17.	Closing Orders determined in respect of	...	5 houses
18.	Houses represented as unfit for habitation	...	2
19.	Sanitary ashbins provided	.. .. .	40
20.	Statutory Notices	... ..	7
21.	Informal notices—verbal, 50; written, 20	...	70

With few exceptions the houses were found to be in very fair condition structurally, the defects discovered being chiefly minor in character. The majority of the tenants on their part are especially clean; this was particularly noticeable with regard to the bedrooms and with the bed linen, etc.

III. DRAINS, W.C.'S, PRIVIES, &c.

New Work.	{	19.	Total defects found	...	...	...	—
		20.	New drains laid	...	...	...	11
		21.	Earth, pail closets or privies constructed	...			0
		22.	W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	10
Old Work Repaired.	{	23.	W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...		9
		24.	Drains cleansed, repaired, relaid or ventilated				41
		25.	Privies and W.C.'s repaired	...	...		5

Most of the defects in drains were from blocked interceptors and traps—these were released by the Council's men and cleansed.

IV. WATER SUPPLY.

New Work.	{	26.	Houses connected with water mains	...			2
		27.	Samples taken for analysis	...	..		0
		28.	"Certificates" granted	} (<i>For Rural Districts only</i>).			—
		29.	"Certificates" deferred				—
Old Work Repaired	{	30.	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...		14
		31.	Wells cleansed or repaired	...	.		0
		32.	Wells closed	...	...	..	0

Some 1000 inspections of water fittings have been made, and 500 taps fitted with new washers by the Council's men, and 50 new taps fixed by owners.

V. FOOD.

33.	Seizure of unsound meat, etc.	0
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VI. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

34.	Number on Register	7
35.	Number of inspections	...	Not less than once a month			
36.	Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	7
37.	Number cleansed, limewashed, repaired, etc.—All frequently and not less than twice a-year.					

VII. BAKEHOUSES.

38.	Number on Register	...	...	...	...	10
39.	Number of inspections	...	...	...	quarterly	
40.	Number of defects found (2 reported by Factory Inspector, 3 found by Inspector of Nuisances)					5
41.	Number cleansed, limewashed, repaired, etc.	...	{ all twice a-year.			

VIII. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

42.	Number of dairymen or purveyors of milk on Register	10
43.	Number of ditto registered during the year	0
44.	Number of cowkeepers on Register (includes 10 dairymen all cowkeepers)	33
45.	Number of cowkeepers registered during the year	0
46.	Number of visits made	once a quarter
47.	Number of notices issued <i>re</i> cleansing, water supply and sanitary defects—Verbal notice as to white-washing, 15 ; structural defects in yards, 3	18

3 cowyards have been concreted and drained ; 1 shed repaved and reconstructed ; all limewashing carried out.

IX. WORKSHOPS.

48.	Number on Register (includes factories and bake-houses)	46
49.	Number of inspections (ditto ditto)	{ twice a-year
50.	Number of defects found (ditto ditto)	
21.	Number of notices served <i>re</i> cleansing, overcrowding, sanitary defects, etc.	10

X. VARIOUS.

52.	Removal of animals improperly kept	2
53.	Visits to infected houses	37
54.	Houses disinfected	37
55.	Schools disinfected	4

XI. OTHER HEADINGS OR REMARKS.

New houses built	1
Roman Catholic Chapel	1

(Signed) JAMES SMITH,

P.A.S.I., M.R.I.P.H., M.I.M. & C.E.

